

Message Text

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47

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /074 W

----- 074839

O 111320Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3998

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE

USUN PRIORITY 1120

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 2378

DEPT FOR WISNER AF/S

NAIROBI FOR SCHAUFLE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, RH, US, UK

SUBJ: NKOMO OF ANC - "TOO MANY PEOPLE ARE POKING THEIR NOSES
IN OUR POLITICS"

REF: LUSAKA 2362 (NOTAL)

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. ZAMBIAN PAPERS SEPTEMBER 11 FRONT-PAGED
SEPT 10 INTERVIEW GIVEN BY RHODESIAN NATIONALIST
FIGURE, JOSHUA NKOMO, AT STATE HOUSE LUSAKA. NKOMO
REPORTEDLY SAID THAT RHODESIAN LIBERATION STRUGGLE
IS BECOMING CONFUSED BECAUSE "TOO MANY PEOPLE ARE POKING
THEIR NOSES INTO OUR POLITICS." U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN
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THE PROBLEM OF RHODESIA, BUT NOT RPT NOT ITS POLITICS

IS WELCOME BECAUSE IT IS THE U.S.-LED WESTERN WORLD
WHICH IS KEEPING SMITH IN POWER.

2. REFERRING TO REPORTS OF SEPTEMBER 10 LUSAKA
REMARKS BY ASST SECY SCHAUFLE THAT THE SITUATION WAS
COMPLICATED BY DIVISIONS WITHIN THE RANKS OF
THE ZIMBABWE NATIONALISTS (REFTEL) NKOMO SAID, "BUT
HOW THE HELL THE AMERICANS COME INTO OUR UNITY, ONLY
THE DEVIL KNOWS. THEY MUST KEEP OUT OF OUR POLITICS
COMPLETELY." NKOMO SAID THAT HE WAS WILLING TO TALK WITH
LEADERS OF ZANU, BUT MENTIONED NO ONE SPECIFICALLY.

3. NKOMO SCOFFED AT THE CHANCES OF PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT
OBSERVING THAT THE ONLY SOLUTION NOW IS ONE OF
BLOOD. HE STATED THAT HE HAD NOT BEEN INFORMED OF THE
DETAILS OF THE U.S. INITIATIVE AND CHARACTERIZED IT
AS "JUST SHUTTLEING AROUND..."

4. NKOMO SAID HE WOULD BE RETURNING TO ZIMBABWE.

5. EMBASSY HAS REPORT THAT NKOMO GAVE ANOTHER
INTERVIEW ON SEPTEMBER 11 IN WHICH HE ELABORATED ON PLANS
FOR TALKS WITH ZANU. CONTACTS WILL BE MADE BY JASON
MOYO THIS WEEK WITH ZANU AND THE INFERENCE IS IT WILL
BE MUGABE, NOT SITHOLE WHO WILL BE CONTACTED. FURTHER DETAILS
OF SECOND INTERVIEW WILL BE REPORTED SEPARATELY. END UNCLASSIFIED.

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COMMENT: NKOMO'S EMPHASIS THAT THE FORM OF GOVERNMENT
AND SELECTION OF LEADERSHIP IN A FREE ZIMBABWE IS UP TO
THE ZIMBABWEANS THEMSELVES AND HIS HOSTILITY TO
OUTSIDER'S EFFORTS TO FORGE RHODESIAN NATIONALIST UNITY
STEM FROM HIS PERCEPTION OF HOW HE CAN COME OUT ON TOP.
RELUCTANT TO GO TO THE DAR SUMMIT AND WEDDED TO THE
DECEMBER 1974 UNITY ACCORD, NKOMO PERCEIVES ANY ANC UNITY,
ACHIEVED BY NEGOTIATIONS WITH RIVAL FIGURES OUTSIDE OF
RHODESIA, AS BEING TO HIS DISADVANTAGE. PERHAPS NKOMO
BELIEVES THAT HE CANNOT COMPETE IN THE PERCEPTION OF
THE OUTSIDE WORLD AS THE PARAMOUNT LEADER OF
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RHODESIAN NATIONALISM WITH THE LIKES OF SITHOLE, MUGABE
AND MUZOREWA WHO HAVE BEEN AFFORDED A DEGREE OF FOREIGN
PUBLIC RECOGNITION NKOMO HIMSELF HAS NEVER GENERATED.
IN THIS CONTEXT, NKOMO SEES HIS ONLY CHANCE OF BECOMING
THE LEADER OF A FREE ZIMBABWE RESTING ON A TEST OF
POPULAR SUPPORT WITHIN ZIMBABWE, THERE HIS PAST RECORD
OF NATIONALIST ACTIVITIES GIVES HIM AN EDGE AMONG THE
MASSES OVER LATER ENTRIES WHO ARE BETTER KNOWN

ABROAD AND HAVE SPENT MOST OF THEIR ACTIVE POLITICAL CAREERS OUTSIDE OF ZIMBABWE. IF THIS THESIS IS VALID, THEN NKOMO'S HOSTILITY TOWARD FORCED EXTERNALLY-NEGOTIATED NATIONALIST UNITY, NOT BASED ON THE CHOICE OF ALL ZIMBABWEANS, BUT POLITICAL BROKERING AND MANEUVERING IS AN IMPORTANT FACET OF NKOMO'S CURRENT POLITICAL POSTURING. END CONFIDENTIAL.
LOW

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